European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Equality Index 2026

Latvia



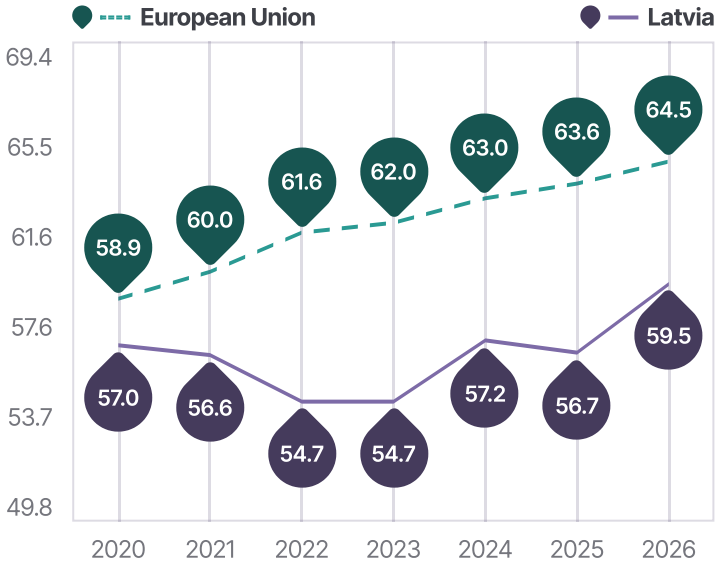
The Gender Equality Index score in Latvia is 59.5 points out of 100, ranking 19th in the EU. Since 2020, its Gender Equality Index score has increased by 2.5 points; since 2025, it has improved by 2.8 points, mainly due to the domain of power and the domain of money.

Latvia has increased its Gender Equality Index score at a slower pace than the EU average. However, since the last edition, the distance from the EU average is decreasing.

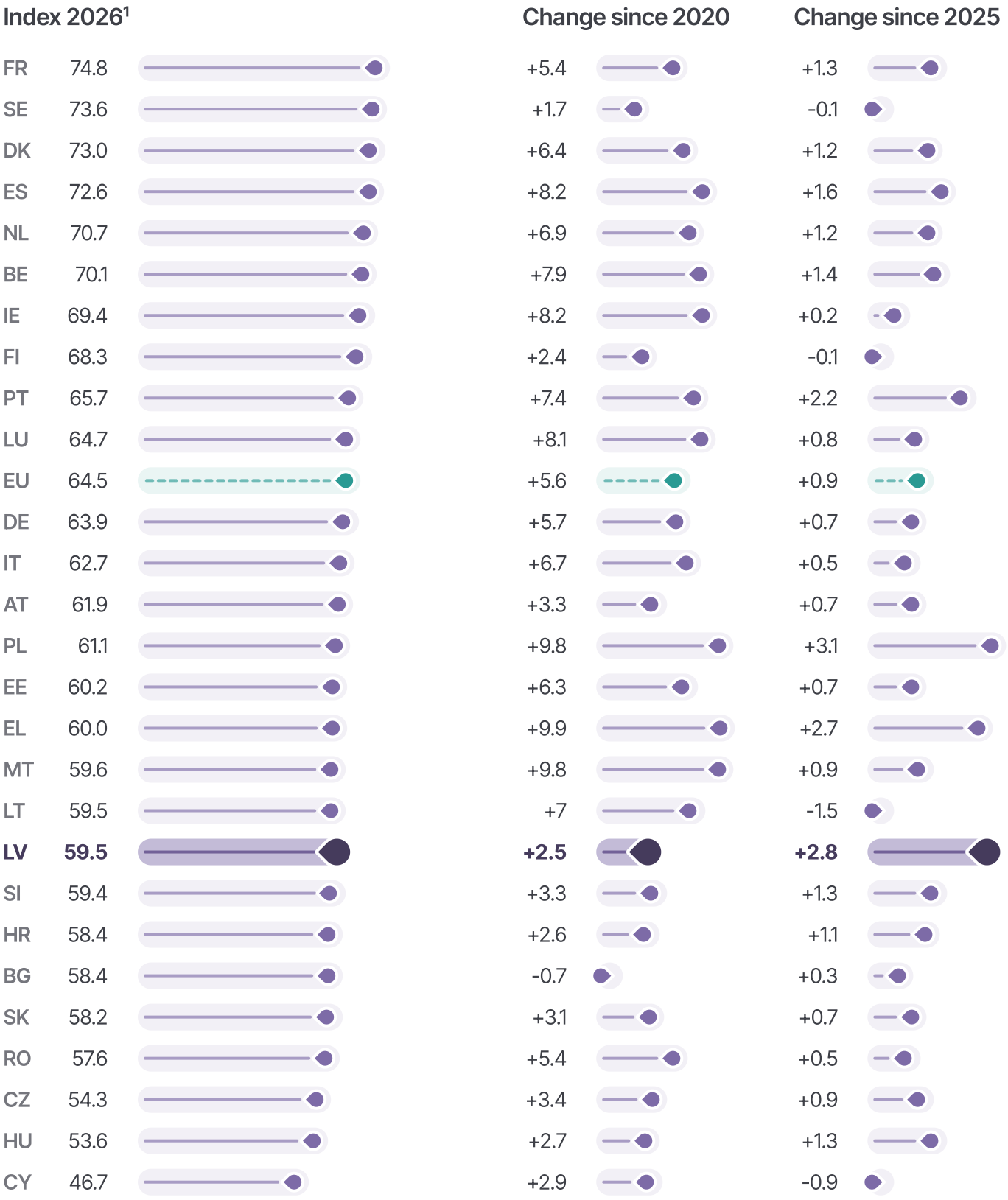
Scores (0-100)

Index	59.5
Work	77.2
Money	80.8
Knowledge	44.9
Time	57.2
Power	34.9
Health	78.6

Trend (2020 - 2026)



Compare countries



1. The Gender Equality Index has been reviewed in 2025 (see About the Index). For the Index 2026, data corrections and updates to the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) microdata carried out by several National Statistical Institutes affected a number of indicators included in the Index. As a result, the previous editions of the Gender Equality Index have been recalculated, and scores might be slightly different compared to the scores presented in the Index 2025. The Index is calculated every year by using N-1 data, for the overall time series. The Index 2026 is mostly based on 2025 data and traces progress from a short-term (2024–2025) and longer-term (2019–2025) perspective. The domain of time is calculated with the 2024 EIGE CARE survey. Lithuania/Latvia, and Croatia/Bulgaria have the same scores. Their position in the ranking is determined statistically based on the second decimal place of the Index score.

Progress in gender equality

Best performance

Latvia has its **best performance** in the domain of work, where it holds 5th place in the EU with a score of 77.2 points. This result reflects high scores in the subdomains of participation (90.3 points, 5th place) and segregation and quality of work (66.0 points, 7th place).

Most room for improvement

Latvia ranks 25th in the domains of knowledge, time and health. The domain of knowledge scores 44.9 points, holding last place in the EU in the subdomain of segregation in education.

Latvia has also **room for improvement** in the domain of power (34.9 points), although it is improving over the years.

Biggest improvement

Latvia had its **biggest improvement** since 2025 in the domain of power, where the score has increased by 6.0 points due to the significant progresses in economic power (+ 11.0 points) and social power (+ 6 points). Latvia has also seen a significant improvement in the domain of money (+ 4.1 points since 2025), due to both subdomains of financial resources and economic situation (+ 3.5 points and + 4.5 points, respectively).

A step backwards

Latvia has experienced a small **step backwards** in the domain of work, which has slightly decreased by 0.1 points since 2025 due to a decline in work participation (– 0.7 points).

Explore Latvia's Index results

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change since 2020	Change since 2025
Index	**57.0**	**56.6**	**54.7**	**54.7**	**57.2**	**56.7**	**59.5**	**2.5**	**2.8**
Work	**77.9**	**78.3**	**77.5**	**76.2**	**75.8**	**77.3**	**77.2**	**-0.7**	**-0.1**
Participation	90.6	90.0	90.3	90.4	91.4	91.0	90.3	-0.3	-0.7
Segregation and quality of work	67.0	68.0	66.6	64.3	62.9	65.7	66.0	-1.0	0.3
Money	**76.7**	**78.4**	**74.5**	**75.0**	**78.8**	**76.7**	**80.8**	**4.1**	**4.1**
Financial resources	81.6	84.0	79.3	79.3	81.6	80.5	84.0	2.4	3.5
Economic situation	72.0	73.1	70.1	71.0	76.0	73.1	77.6	5.6	4.5
Knowledge	**41.3**	**42.5**	**42.2**	**43.6**	**43.6**	**43.5**	**44.9**	**3.6**	**1.4**
Attainment and participation	60.3	63.0	65.9	65.0	62.6	62.6	63.9	3.6	1.3
Segregation	28.3	28.7	27.0	29.2	30.3	30.2	31.5	3.2	1.3
Time	**57.2**	**57.2**	**57.2**	**57.2**	**57.2**	**57.2**	**57.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Care activities	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	0.0	0.0
Social activities	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	0.0	0.0
Power	**30.8**	**28.6**	**25.3**	**24.8**	**30.4**	**28.9**	**34.9**	**4.1**	**6.0**
Political	30.8	26.5	24.1	26.8	35.1	37.6	37.5	6.7	-0.1
Economic	34.3	30.8	23.9	20.1	25.4	28.5	39.5	5.2	11.0
Social	27.6	28.8	28.3	28.5	31.5	22.7	28.7	1.1	6.0
Health	**77.7**	**76.9**	**76.6**	**77.4**	**77.1**	**78.1**	**78.6**	**0.9**	**0.5**
Status	83.0	81.2	80.6	82.4	81.8	83.9	85.0	2.0	1.1
Behaviour	72.7	72.7	72.7	72.7	72.7	72.7	72.7	0.0	0.0

Explore Latvia's performance by indicator

		Latvia		EU	
Work		Women	Men	Women	Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[2]	53	64	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2025)	39	38	35	40
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (%, 15-74, 2025)	26	74	20	81
	Managerial positions (%, 15-74, 2025)	44	56	36	64
	Low paid workers (%, 16+, 2025)	36	28	37	29
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2025)	20369	24842	25525	32079
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2025)	14		24	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64,%, 2025)[3]	75	131	73	147
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)	16	15	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 30-34, 2025)	59	38	51	40
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2025)	18	28	27	34
Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (%, 2024)	84	16	75	25
	Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (%, 2024)	34	66	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)	41	15	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (%, 45-64, 2019)	18	10	20	13
	Housework chores every day (%, 16-74, 2024)	56	29	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	28	41	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	9	14	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2025)	39	61	32	68
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2025)	34	66	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2025)[4]	17	83	32	68
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (%, 2025)	32	68	35	65
Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (%, 2025)	26	74	26	74
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)	44	54	65	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 65+, 2024)	23	26	48	54
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 16+ population, 2019)	79	50	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 16+ population, 2019)	23	27	38	43

Source: EU-LFS, EU-SILC, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), Eurostat health statistics, EIGE's CARE survey, EIGE, Gender Statistics Database, WMID.

2. FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week
3. Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age
4. Share of members in local municipalities for BG, EE, IE, CY, LT, LU, MT, SI

Key highlights

The gender employment gap remains widest for parents and those born abroad

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate[5] is 53 % for women and 64 % for men. The gap is still pronounced among couples with children (23 pp), people born abroad (18 pp) and people with medium levels of education (18 pp). The shortest distance between women and men lies among couples without children (3 pp).

High shares of women among ICT specialists and managers

In Latvia, women account for 26 % of ICT (information and communications technology) specialists, this is one of the highest levels for women in the EU, despite a decline of 1 pp since the previous year. Women hold 44 % of managerial positions, after a slight increase of 1 pp over the previous year, which is among the highest shares of women in the EU.

Latvia's gender pension gap is well below the EU average

The gender pension gap in Latvia has decreased by 1 pp compared with the previous year, reaching 14 % – below the EU average of 24 %.

In-work poverty in single-parent households is much higher for women than for men

In Latvia, 16 % of employed women and 15 % of men living in single-adult or single-parent households are at risk of poverty. The percentage for men has increased by 3 pp since the previous year. Among single-parent households, 22 % of women are at risk of poverty, compared with 14 % of men, while among single-adult households, women face a slightly lower risk than men (13 % compared with 15 %).

Women lead in tertiary education, men in vocational training

In Latvia, 59 % of women aged 30–34 completed tertiary education (+ 2 pp since the previous year), compared with 38 % of men (+ 6 pp since the previous year). The pattern reverses for vocational training: among people aged 25–34; 18 % of women completed IVET (initial vocational education and training) studies, compared with 28 % of men (+ 2 pp over the previous year). The gender gap among IVET graduates is slightly higher among people with disabilities (7 pp) than people without disabilities (5 pp).

Women dominate EHW graduate fields

In Latvia, women make up 84 % of graduates in EHW (education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts) fields. This is the highest share in the EU. By contrast, women account for only 34 % of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates.

5. The FTE employment rate measures working hours comparatively, even though people may work different numbers of hours per week.

Care responsibilities remain unevenly shared

In Latvia, 41 % of women spend more than 35 hours a week caring for children aged 0–11, compared with 15 % of men. This matches the EU average for women, while the percentage for men is below the EU average (20 %) and reflects one of the highest gender disparities in the EU.

Among people aged 45–64, 18 % of women spend more than 20 hours per week on long-term care, compared with 10 % of men.

Women's representation rises in parliament but declines in government and regional government

In Latvia, women hold 39 % of senior and junior ministerial positions, while regional assemblies are made up of 17 % of women. Both rates have decreased by 2 pp over the previous year. However, the share of women in the national parliament has increased by 3 pp, reaching 34 %.

> Latvia does not have gender quotas for parliament.

Women's economic and social representation have both increased

The percentage of women on the boards of the largest listed companies has reached 32 %, an increase of 6 pp since the previous year.

Women's social power, reflected in the highest decision-making body of the national Olympic sport organisations, has also progressed to 26 % after an increase of 4 pp since the previous year.

> As of December 2025, in Latvia the legislation for the transposition of the Directive (EU) 2022/2381 (Gender Balance on Boards Directive) remains in draft form.

Latvia has the lowest levels of both self-perceived health and healthy life years at 65

In Latvia, 44 % of women and 54 % of men reported their health as 'good' or 'very good', a decrease of 2 pp for women and an increase of 1 pp for men since the previous year – the lowest levels in the EU.

Women and men aged 65 years and above are expected to live 23 % and 26 % respectively of their remaining life in good health. Figures for both genders have decreased since previous year (– 3 pp for women, 6 pp for men), resulting in the lowest figures among Member States.

Explore intersecting inequalities

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[6]		Women	Men	Gender gap	Gender gap in 2019	Gap change
Household composition	Couple without children	48	51	-3	-3	🟠
	Couple with children	74	97	-23	-17	🔴
Level of education	Low educated	18	30	-12	-15	🟢
	Medium educated	47	65	-18	-13	🔴
	High educated	72	82	-10	-7	🔴
Country of birth	Native born	56	65	-9	-11	🟢
	Foreign born	32	50	-18	-9	🔴
In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	13	15	-2	0	🔴
	Single-parent household	22	14	8	6	🔴
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	17	14	3	2	🔴
	50-64	19	19	0	-1	🟢
	65+	6	3	3	n/a	n/a
Country of birth	Native born	16	15	1	0	🔴
	Foreign born	13	14	-1	n/a	n/a
Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2024)						
Country of birth	Native born	19	29	-10	-9	🔴
	Foreign born	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Disability	With disabilities	15	22	-7	-22	🟢
	Without disabilities	17	22	-5	-13	🟢
Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)						
Household composition	Single-parent household	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Couple with children	46	10	36	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	42	13	29	n/a	n/a
	50-64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	25	41	-16	-26	🟢
	Single-parent household	61	67	-6	17	🟢
	Couple without children	37	36	1	-1	🟠
	Couple with children	75	73	2	4	🟢
Age groups	15/16-24	85	91	-6	-9	🟢
	25-49	69	70	-1	-1	🟠
	50-64	37	39	-2	-3	🟢
	65+	13	16	-3	-5	🟢
Disability	With disabilities	5	6	-1	-1	🟠
	Without disabilities	70	75	-5	-6	🟢

Source: Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), EIGE CARE survey.

🟢 gender gap decreased (<= -1 p.p.) 🟠 no change (gender gap increases/decreases between -1 and 1 p.p.) 🔴 gender gap increased (>= 1 p.p.)

6. FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week. Family type is based on the relationships between the members of households. Children are only those economically dependent household members (i.e. aged below 18).

Violence against women

Violence against women is one of the additional domains of the Gender Equality Index. The composite indicator on violence against women was calculated based on the EU-GBV survey on violence against women[7].

Latvia's score for the domain of violence is 25.6 points, which is lower than the EU average[8].

The score for the subdomain of prevalence is 14.4 points; the subdomain of severity is 38.8 points and for the subdomain of disclosure, 23.6 points.

- In Latvia, 25 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15. This is 6 pp lower than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- In Latvia, 61 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- In Latvia, 23 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.
- In 2024, 0.99 women out of 100 000 inhabitants were victims of intentional homicide by a current or former partner (0.20) or a family member (0.79).
- Girls report cyberbullying more often than boys. Among 13-year-olds, 29 % of girls reported cyberbullying, compared with 24 % of boys. At age 15, the figures were 24 % for girls and 19 % for boys. The gender gap is 5 pp in both age groups[9].
- In Latvia, 1 % of women[10] who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work via social networks or messaging apps[11].

The **Istanbul Convention** is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

Latvia signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2016 and ratified it in January 2024. The treaty entered into force in Latvia in May 2024.

The European Council approved the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention on 1 June 2023.

7. The calculations of the composite measure in 2024 differ in several ways from the calculations carried out in 2017 due to slight differences in methodologies between the FRA EU-wide survey on violence against women of 2012 and the EU-GBV survey (wave 2021). For more details, see EIGE (2025). Gender Equality Index 2024: Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities. Publications Office.
8. More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024, Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.
9. Based on HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)
10. Low reliability for this value for Latvia: the estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20 % and is lower or equal to 50 %.
11. Based on EU-GBV Survey (2021 wave)

Violence against women

Physical and/or sexual violence	Latvia Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**25**	**31 e**
18-29	20	35 e
30-44	25	35 e
45-64	28	31 e
65-74	22	24 e
severe limitations	40	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	25	30 e
some	31	40 e
some or severe	33	41 e
no limitations	23	28 e
intimate partner violence	16	18 e
non-partner violence	14	20 e
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**2**	**3 e**

Femicide	Latvia Women	EU Women
Women victims of intentional homicide by current or former partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2024) [12]	**0.99**	**0.4**
family member	0.79	0.4
current or former partner	0.2	:

Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation	Latvia Women	EU Women
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**61**	**57 e**
intimate partner violence	79	72 e
non-partner violence	33	37 e
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**34 u**	**37 e**
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from one or several types of perpetrators (non-partner, current partner or former partner) (%, 18-74, 2021)	**20**	**31 e**

Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else	Latvia Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (%, 18-74, 2021)	**23**	**31 e**
intimate partner violence	24	31 e
non-partner violence	32	38 e

12. Data for the EU and for RO not disagregated by perpetrators. Data for Finland from 2023.

Cyberviolence	Latvia Women	Latvia Men	EU Women	EU Men
13-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [13]	29	24	19 e	16 e
15-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [14]	24	19	15 e	14 e
	Women		Women	
Ever-working women who have experienced sexual harassment at work via social network and messages (%, 18-74, 2022)	1 u		7 e	

Source:
- EU-GBV survey on violence against women (Statistics | Eurostat (europa.eu))
- Italy, the data based on Victimisation survey 2022-2023 (Le molestie: vittime e contesto – Anno 2022-2023 – Istat); women aged 18-70.
- Femicide, Eurostat (crim_hom_vrel)
- HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)

Legend:
- EU: EIGE's estimation
- u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)
- d: definition differs
- e: estimated
- : not available

13. EU: EIGE estimation, unweighted average of the 27 Member States BE: unweighted average of Flemish Belgium and French Belgium data.
14. EU: EIGE estimation, unweighted average of the 27 Member States BE: unweighted average of Flemish Belgium and French Belgium data.

Parental leave

The Gender Equality Index 2026 focuses on parental leave as a key policy tool for promoting gender equality, supporting families and promoting children's well-being. Well-designed parental leave can help parents reconcile work and family life, support a more equal division of care responsibilities and strengthen participation in the labour market. It also supports children's early development by enabling parents to spend time with them during the first years of life. Although parental leave is available in all EU Member States, rules on access and benefits vary considerably[15].

The analysis looks at who is eligible for parental leave and its related benefits.

Employed women are less likely than employed men to be excluded from statutory parental leave

Among employed people in Latvia, 9 % of women and 12 % of men are not eligible for statutory parental leave. Exclusion is entirely due to the self-employment condition for both genders. However, all employed women and men are entitled to parental leave-related benefits.

In the overall population, both women and men are eligible for parental leave benefits

Among the population in Latvia, no women or men are excluded from parental leave benefits.

Women are disproportionately more likely to take up parental leave benefits or paid parental leave

Among recipients of publicly administered parental leave benefits or paid parental leave, 83 % are women.

A one-year gap separates well-paid leave from guaranteed childcare in Latvia

In Latvia, families face a one-year gap between the end of well-paid parental leave and the point at which a childcare place is guaranteed, leaving them without either well-paid leave or assured access to formal childcare during this period.

15. The analysis uses a static microsimulation to estimate how many potential parents would be eligible for parental leave across the EU. Country-specific eligibility rules are applied to representative survey data. The analysis covers people aged 20–49 and focuses on formal eligibility rather than actual take-up. It distinguishes between eligibility for job-protected parental leave (the statutory right to take time away from work while keeping a job) and eligibility for parental leave benefits (the financial compensation received during that leave). In countries where the eligibility conditions for leave and benefits are identical, the two measures produce the same results. However, where eligibility criteria differ, benefit eligibility is often broader than leave eligibility, as entitlement to financial support may extend to individuals who are not in employment. To reflect these differences, eligibility rates were simulated separately for the employed population (leave entitlement) and for the overall population (benefit entitlement). It uses 2024 data from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). For more details, see Gender Equality Index 2026: Making parental leave work (EIGE, 2026).

Parental leave

Parental leave	Latvia Women	Latvia Men	EU Women	EU Men
1. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave (%, 20-49, 2024) [16]	**9**	**12**	**8**	**11**
2. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave by reason for ineligibility (%, 20-49, 2024)				
Self-employment	100	100	71	76
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	20	16
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	8	8
3. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024)	**0**	**0**	**4**	**4**
4. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024) [17]	**0**	**0**	**18**	**13**
5. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits by reason for ineligibility, (%, 20-49, 2024) [18]				
Unemployement or inactivity	0	0	:	:
Self-employment	0	0	:	:
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	:	:
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	:	:
6. Recipients/users of publicly-administered parental leave benefits or publicly-administered paid parental leave (%, 2023) [19]	**83**	**17**	**:**	**:**
	Gap		**Gap**	
7. Gap between well-paid childcare leave and ECEC place guarantee (years, 2024/2025) [20]	**1**		**:**	

Source: • EU-LFS, EU-SILC • OECD Family Database • Eurydice

Legend:
- Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: the analysis uses a static microsimulation to estimate how many potential parents would be eligible for job-protected parental leave (the statutory right to take time away from work while keeping one's job) and eligibility for parental leave benefits (the financial compensation received during that leave).
- Indicators 2, 5, 6: figures rounded to whole numbers, sum may not add up to 100 %
- : not available

16. Sweden applies a one-year residency requirement for EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA nationals, which was simulated but resulted in extremely small numbers, rounded to zero (0).

17. Sweden applies a one-year residency requirement for EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA nationals, which was simulated but resulted in extremely small numbers, rounded to zero (0).

18. 'EU-27' average excluded due to the results being unrepresentative as the figure covers only the subset of Member States with a non-negligible ineligible population to decompose by reason, excluding countries with near-full eligibility and unmet employment conditions and unmet residency requirements will be conflated.

19. DK, SE and PT do not make a distinction between the different leaves, therefore their numbers also include users of maternity and paternity leave. For BE and CZ, data is an average of users/recipients in each month of the given year. For LU, data refer to recipients of the first (right after birth) and second parental leave (before 6th birthday). For EE, data refer to recipients of shared parental benefits (jagatav vanemahüvitis). For FI, data refer to recipients of the sharable parental allowance plus the paternity allowance after the parental allowance period. For DE, data include both recipients of 'Elterngeld' and 'ElterngeldPlus'. PL and FI latest data for 2021; DK latest data for 2022. Data is not available for other countries.

20. Well-paid leave' is defined as leave compensated with an earnings-related payment equivalent to 66 % of earnings or above. The measure combines maternity, paternity, and parental leave, and reflects the continuous well-paid period achievable from birth if leave is taken full-time, in one uninterrupted period, by one or both parents in sequence.

About the Index

The Gender Equality Index, first launched in 2013, has become a cornerstone of gender monitoring in the European Union. In 2025, the Index underwent a comprehensive review to strengthen its alignment with current EU policy priorities, integrate new data and update its methodology.

The Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 27 indicators. Scores range from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects complete gender inequality and 100 represents full equality.

Two additional domains are included in the Index, but do not impact a country's final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, disability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women measures, monitors and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

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The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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